

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: 69-27 Building Date: c.1944

Building Name: Bill Green's Motors, Inc.

Location: 5406 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, Maryland

Private/Gas Station/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description Summary

Bill Green's Motors, Inc., at 5406 Annapolis Road (Lots 37,38,39, Block 25, Addition A, Decatur Heights) is a small, one-story, stucco-covered building with a rectangular plan and a shallow, shed roof concealed on three sides by a simple horizontal parapet. The building is devoid of applied decoration and relies on its simple, volumetric massing for architectural effect. The building, which is oriented to the south, is located on the north side of Annapolis Road, west of its intersection with Landover Road. Originally constructed as an auto service station, the building has two service bays to the west, and an office to the east. The service bays are accessed by wood and glass overhead garage doors, and the office by a small wood-and-glass entry door. The office is lighted by a large curved window made up of vertical panes of plate glass. The curve of the office window is also expressed in the rounded corner of the building. At the rounded corner, the building's simple horizontal parapet rises above the rest of the building. The narrow east elevation of the building contains only a small single-door entry at its northern end.

Significance Summary

Bill Green's Motors, Inc., is significant as a representative example of early twentieth century roadside architecture in Prince George's County. The building, originally built as an auto service station, has been a familiar landmark near the intersection of Annapolis and Landover roads since its construction in the mid 1940s. The building was constructed c. 1944, by the Mobil Oil Company for use as a service station. The land on which the station was located, Lots 37, 38, 39, Block 25, Addition A, Decatur Heights, was leased by Mobil from Wade H. Sheriff for at least five years after the construction of the building. Sheriff had acquired the lots and several others adjacent to this site through a tax sale in October 1943. For many years after its use by the Mobil Oil Company, the building was the site of a used car sales operated by Bill Green. Although Mr. Green died in the early 1980s, used car sales ventures at the site have continued to operate under his name.

Acreage: 5,206 sq. ft.

PG # 69-27

Bill Green's Motors, Inc.
5406 Annapolis Road

Bladensburg, Maryland

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Periods:

Modern Period - AD 1930- Present

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Functions and Uses: Gas Station

Design Source: Mobil Oil Company/unknown

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. PG#69-27

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Bill Green's Motor's Inc.

2. Location

street & number 5406 Annapolis Road (Maryland Route 450) ☐ not for publication

city, town Bladensburg ☐ vicinity of ☐ congressional district 4th

state Maryland ☐ county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Wade H. Sheriff, Jr.

street & number 1207 Hornell Drive ☐ telephone no.:

city, town Silver Spring ☐ state and zip code Maryland 20904

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse ☐ liber 5409

street & number 14735 Main Street ☐ folio 532

city, town Upper Marlboro ☐ state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

☐ repository for survey records

city, town ☐ state

7. Description

Survey No. PG#69-27

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Bill Green's Motors, Inc., at 5406 Annapolis Road (Lots 37,38,39, Block 25, Addition A, Decatur Heights) is a small, one-story, stucco-covered building with a rectangular plan and a shallow, shed roof concealed on three sides by a simple horizontal parapet. The building is devoid of applied decoration and relies on its simple, volumetric massing for architectural effect. The building, which is oriented to the south, is located on the north side of Annapolis Road, west of its intersection with Landover Road.

Originally constructed as an auto service station, the building has two service bays to the west, and an office to the east. The service bays are accessed by wood and glass overhead garage doors, and the office by a small wood-and-glass entry door. The office is lighted by a large curved window made up of vertical panes of plate glass. The curve of the office window is also expressed in the rounded corner of the building. At the rounded corner, the building's simple horizontal parapet rises above the rest of the building. The narrow east elevation of the building contains only a small single-door entry at its northern end.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG#69-27

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c.1944

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Bill Green's Motors, Inc., is significant as a representative example of early twentieth century roadside architecture in Prince George's County. The building, originally built as an auto service station, has been a familiar landmark near the intersection of Annapolis and Landover roads since its construction in the mid 1940s.

The building was constructed c. 1944, by the Mobil Oil Company for use as a service station. The land on which the station was located, Lots 37, 38, 39, Block 25, Addition A, Decatur Heights, was leased by Mobil from Wade H. Sheriff for at least five years after the construction of the building. Sheriff had acquired the lots and several others adjacent to this site through a tax sale in October 1943.¹

For many years after its use by the Mobil Oil Company, the building was the site of a used car sales operated by Bill Green. Although Mr. Green died in the early 1980s, used sales ventures at that location have continued to operate under his name.²

¹Portions of what today is known as Decatur Heights were originally subdivided in 1914; Block 25, Addition A, was recorded as part of a replatting in 1947, see Plat 2:36. See also Prince George's County Land Records, 722:82.

²Oral interview, Wade H. Sheriff, Jr., Ashton, Maryland, June 8, 1993.

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10. Geographical Data

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

H | | | | | | | | | |

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

state Maryland

CHOP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

CHAIN OF TITLE

PG # 69-27

Bill Green's Motors, Inc.
5406 Annapolis Road
Bladensburg, Maryland

5409:532
26 May 1981
Deed

Wade H. Sheriff, Jr. (personal representative of Alice B. Sheriff, deceased, surviving tenant Wade H. Sheriff) to Wade H. Sheriff, Jr. Grantors conveys Lots 37, 38 and 39 (and others) in Block 25, Addition A, Decatur Heights. Plat recorded 2:36. Same obtained from County Commissioners and Constance Zuras, 26 October 1943, 722:82.

722:82
26 October 1943
Deed

County Commissioners of Prince George's County for Constance Zuras to Wade H. and Alice B. Sheriff. Grantors convey Lots 37, 38 and 39 (and others) in Block 25, Addition A, Decatur Heights. Same obtained from Nicholas Zuras, 24 September 1928, 332:123.

332:123
24 September 1928
Deed

Nicholas Zuras to Constance Zuras. Grantor conveys Lots 37, 38 and 39 in Block 25, Addition A, Decatur Heights. Same obtained from Washington Potomac Industrial Corporation, 9 April 1925, 232:261.

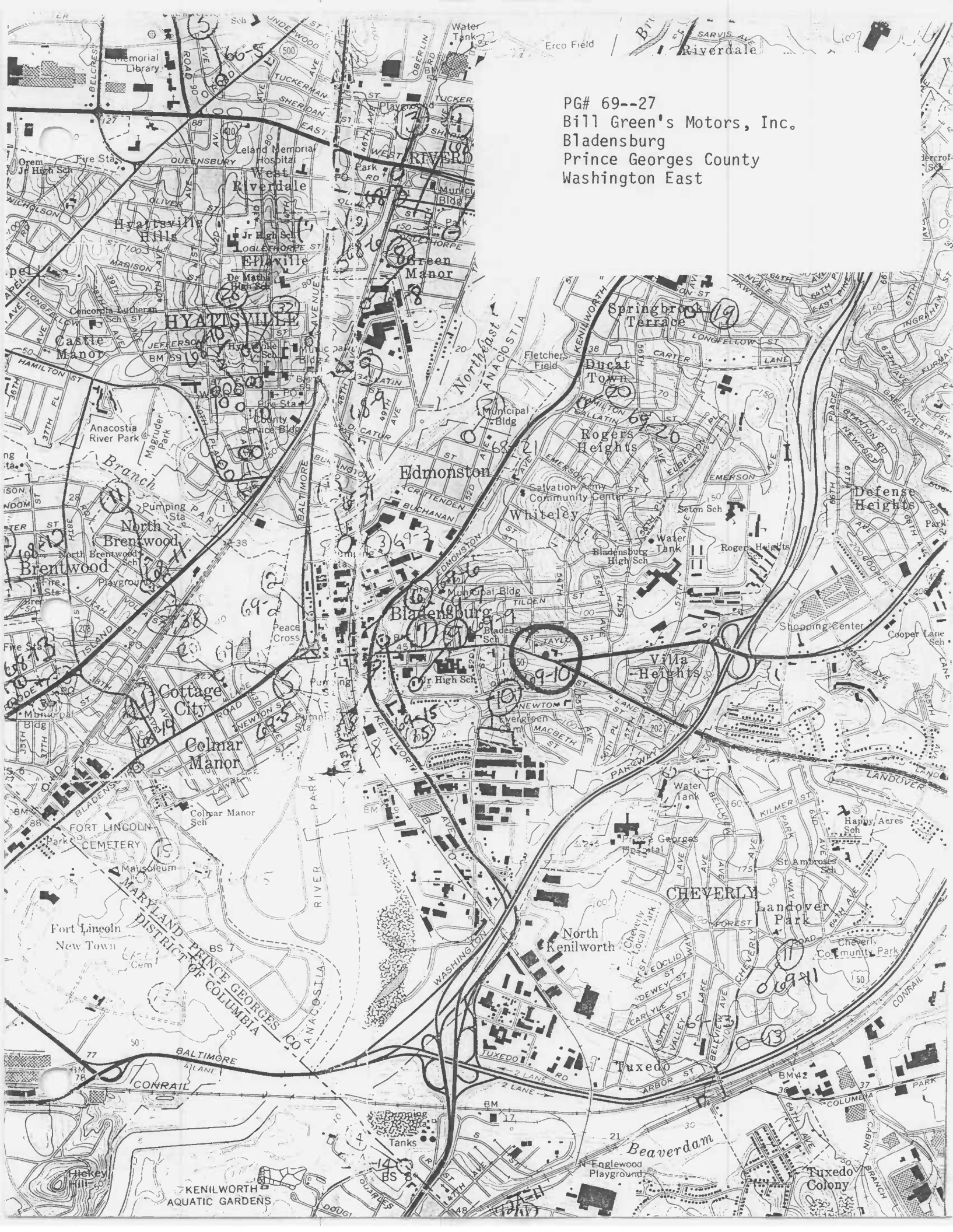
232:261
9 April 1925
Deed

Washington Potomac Industrial Corporation to Nicholas Zuras. Grantors convey Lots 37, 38 and 39, Block 25, Addition A, Decatur Heights. To clear title, this deed is made.

Erco Field

Birch St
SARVIS AVE
Riverdale

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Bill Green's Motors, Inc.
Bladensburg
Prince Georges County
Washington East





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Bill Green's Motors, Inc., Bladensburg
Prince George's County, Maryland

Howard S. Berger

February 1993

FROM S (detail)

MD SUPD

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PG # 69-27

Bill Green's Motors, Inc., Bladensburg
Prince George's County, Maryland

Howard S. Berger

February 1993

FROM S

MD SHPO

10F 2